



The MODEST REPLY of  
J. BLACKSTONE Examined.

**S**ince Mr. *Blackstone's* restless Spirit will not let him be at quiet; and that having begun ill, he is resolved to end worse; it may perhaps seem *labour in vain* to spend time upon him; But lest he should be wise in his own conceit, or flush'd with the advantage he vainly hopes to have got against the Vindicator, or that the World should believe him the Author of that Paper; I shall for this once throw away a few minutes more; but for the future (unless I were assured he could indite himself) I shall waste no more upon him.

As to the defamatory Suggestions and Stories concerning him, which right or wrong, he charges at first dash, I appeal to the Vindicator's Paper it self, whether any thing of that nature be its design, any further than as it naturally falls in to clear the Reputation of the Doctors, and to wipe off those foul aspersions his great dissingenuity and abusiveness hath thrown upon them. As to the Relation mentioned in the Paper of what pass'd at his Shop, I shall give a further account of that by and by.

In the mean time, I take leave to tell him, that I am not at all concerned for any thing is said of me throughout his whole Paper; my want of Education, the unkindness or imperfection of Nature, my being unlearned or unlettered, as 'tis called, or what ever else is offer'd as a mark of Derision to affront me, nothing of all this does at all affect me, being better pleas'd, and glorying more to be thought an honest Man than the greatest Scholar; a true Friend, rather than a carping Critick.

But yet that a Man who pretends to write of Sense and Grammar, and to correct the Mistakes or Errata of another, who understands nothing of the thing himself, is a great Misfortune, and a Weakness more than Blunder; for the whole Product of his Paper is the Issue of a Club of Inditers, and not one word of it his own, as may be sufficiently proved: 'Tis pity the Man should be put to such mean shifts; but so have I seen at School, one Boy steal another's Exercise, or with Bribes procur'd it to be made; but when the Master found it out, he was sure to be whipt for't: Only this worthy Person would pass with impunity, and have the good luck (however well deserving it) to scape without due Correction.

Well, but the great Crime of the Vindicator is his ungentlemanlike Stile, and rude way of treating the Man. Alas! is the humble Name of *Blackstone* without an *M* and an *r.* so odious and distastful? Let him then consider how he can justify his own way of treating the Doctors with the vile Names of Knaves and Rogues: I profess my self an utter Enemy to all rude and unmannerly Expressions; but hearing such did proceed from him, I was mov'd with indignation, and can hardly yet consent to call him Mr.

Some Conversation with ingenious Men may perhaps amend this fault; but it must not be with himself or his Inditers; for with them I may be encourag'd to a railing Trade; witness their former Papers, so full of Gall and Malice, propagated might and main, without any provocation, as I appeal to all Mankind who without prejudice reads the Story; and in the latter Paper only playing the Critick on words and Phrases (tho' of known acceptation) making a shew of, without any real vindication.

tion. If these are the ingenious Men, the critical Men, the liberally (tho' the mischief's in't) Shop-educated Men, that expect Sense and Grammar (tho' spite and mischief be) in every Sentence; I desire no such Conversation: No, I am rather content to be despis'd, to be derided, to be meanly thought on, than keep company with such Men, who, as 'tis manifest, make it their business to slander Integrity, Honesty, and Goodness; and jest at Innocence it self, not vouchsafing better information, lest their Errors should be corrected; and often proceed to that height, that even God himself, and Sacred things become the Subject of their jest and laughter.

One word more, and then I leave 'em; next time their Pupil is instructed, I would advise them, if they can, to tell his Story right; for that which he tells in his Paper is not really true: I am sorry I am forc'd to repeat it, but he must thank himself: The thing is truly thus. The Bolus was ordered to be made with Syrup of Quinces, and not with Syrup of Corral; and the Person that fetch'd it, really paid 10 *d.* for it, which is at the rate of 20 *s.* per Ounce, and they would have had a Shilling, only the Woman press'd hard, and said, she was to be a Customer; and so they gave her 2 *d.* again, telling her moreover what is truly express'd in the Vindicator's Paper, with this further addition, *viz. That it was a very sickly time, and that they had a great many Patients ill, but none died under their care;* which was an encouragement for her to persuade her Mistress to be their Patient, especially since they had used her so kindly.

Now I, do not believe Mr. Blackstone chid his Man for so doing, he knowing better things than to chide him for taking even a Shilling for a Bolus prescribed by a Physician, which is but a customary rate throughout the whole Town, if my information fail not; neither I do believe that he ever in his life charged so little as Half a Crown for Eight Drams of Powder, put up in so many several Doses by a Doctor's order: I have been told he has said the contrary, and with very little difficulty could prove it: but I spare the Man, especially considering his conscionable rates mentioned about the Quart Bottles: the Bolus's I suppose must make amends for those, the one helping the other, as 'tis but reasonable. But this is also a further sly insinuation against the Doctors, to make them appear unconscionable Men, which I cannot but condemn, together with his contempt of their Persons and Practice; and that instead of giving satisfaction, he aggravates his Crime. I challenge him to say wherein they have ever done him injury? I can demonstrate wherein Dr. Morton has done him many kindnesses. But whether this be a suitable return, let the World determine. I expect to hear of further rudenesses, and perhaps the whole storm may fall upon the Vindicator: But I hereby let them know I am provided for it, and despise their Railings; my Talent being employ'd another way, secures me against their little threats and malice; in return to all which, I can still wish them well, and when 'tis in my power do them service.

T H E E N D.

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